

Chapter I

Introduction

Basic Consideration

Short story is one type of prose. It is less complex than novel. In terms of story and its element, only have one incident, single plot, single setting, a number characterization and cover of short period of time. Short story is a brief tale which can be told or read at one setting. (Lawrence 1917, p.275). This study is chosen to analyze the short story because it is a kind of literature which is not as complex as novel. It has only one incident and character in short story also has inner consciousness with moral message in each character. However, it consider in order gaining the lesson to the other especially the student.

This study is exploring the role of woman character in Kate Chopin's short stories. There are five short stories of Kate Chopin are conducted in this study. They are, *Beyond the Bayou*, *Desiree's Baby*, *A Respectable Woman*, *The Kiss*, and *Ma'ame Pelagie*. Kate Chopin's short stories are talking about the woman as the main character and bringing it into different setting. Without female character in the story, the story would not be interest to read; because it mostly builds the conflict, although it caused by the woman herself and the society. Besides, many Kate's stories are about the woman who survives for her live, being submissive and sometimes also sensitive. All of that is the mirror of character of woman in live. Kate put it into her stories. Kate also can inspire the other woman in order that woman can survive for her life, express their self and woman also can place them self into right place. Besides, these stories had a message which in each character that we can learn much from that.

For example, one of role of Kate Chopin's short story "*Beyond the Bayou*" is crucial understanding about La Folle's life who decided to live with physical boundaries in her life.

Even though she is someone who has more physical disorder than most women, but now she is trying to be strong, unfortunately she knows nothing after all. She survives her life beyond it. Although La Folle is the central character in the story and we can learn much about her. Kate taken this story into the protagonist and plays a role that is as important as La Folle's.

The interesting things in these short stories are Kate Chopin wrote it as the mirror of the society in Louisiana as the setting in each stories. The live in Louisiana is inspiring her to write. The characters in these short stories are speak French, Spanish, and also English, because many French and Spanish is grow up in Louisiana and it makes them speak more than one language. Kate Chopin is sign of woman who fearless to evolving her women character that lost hopes by archaic cultural norms. For example, Mrs. Baroda in A Respectable Woman who have conflict in herself because she falls in love with other guy but she realized about her identity as a woman.

This study is bringing to the feminist literary criticism. Feminist is one of literary school which is talking about the female and male character. Kate Chopin's short stories mostly talk about female as the main character. That is reason why this study brings it into feminist. It uses the Freedman (2001, p.12) who states that "women were judged to be less reasonable than men, more ruled by emotion". It clarifies that men are stronger than women because women are using emotion when writing. Then, the theories that use in this study will support with other theories in the next chapter. Rather than the women as the objective of feminism, Case states the feminist critic within *Feminist Literary Criticism and Lysistra* (Wilcox, p. 2), "the feminist critic may assume that the images of women in these plays represent a fiction of women constructed by the patriarchy". The argument explain image of female character in short story build against the male, because in generally male is dominated in the story. Afterward, it will investigate in the Kate Chopin's short stories.

Problem Statement

The problem statement is how are the roles of women characters described in the Kate Chopin's short stories?

Objective of research

The objective of the study is to explore the roles of women characters in Kate Chopin's short stories. It purposes to show that the women can be the main character in the story over the men and strengthens of the sexual stereotypes.

Scope and Limitation of research

This study discusses five short stories of Kate Chopin. They are Beyond the Bayou, Desiree's Baby, A Respectable Woman, The Kiss, and Ma'ame Pelagie. This study focuses on the roles of women characters in Kate Chopin's short stories.

Significances of research

The significance of this study is to find out how the role of women characters discussed in the short stories. It is expected that this study has the benefit for the writer and the readers as follows:

1. It can be the references to the other students who make related study with this study. It is expected that this study will also provide any information regarded to woman's role.
2. Providing more knowledge about the feminism through the role of women characters in the short stories to the reader especially to the teenager or the women. Besides, the

reader can also see the fact of the power of woman in the social life. Then, it can make the reader realize about the place of woman in the world. The teenager especially the girl can place themselves to the certain position and realized about the characters itself.

3. The significant to our own self is realizing the important roles of women are important in life besides the men. Place our own self into right place as a woman.